

markable, particularly nilarity between Wy- rers now and Leeds were nationwide not is ago. It's that brides- re one that says thus no farther.

an League en amateur last season, performance ven if they lling to ad-

New Year, to keep on eague pace- i, who have ychological hey are ten eir nearest

t rivals just rbe, who at Lookes eason, need y men fro

nderers have in hand to e Sid Cann v themselves slip on the is agonising until some- eaks either or Gander

further in programme l chance of tional third who started hope — like Enfield and still realistic- isibility of it 971.

most it is al- probably a t, with Wy- reable weight their three eate. Wy- recall their Park as an

Wanderers have the Leeds look about them

By Mike Whitesman

occasion when they weren't the better team. And it is because of this that St. Albans — under the guidance of manager Sid Prosser — are the team Wanderers must avoid if an appearance in the Amateur Cup final at Wembley is to be contemplated.

Wycombe's continual weakness in midfield makes the slick moving Saints the only amateur opposition they can't control.

Their other defeats have been largely self inflicted. The poor 45 minutes that pushed Barking too far ahead at Lookes Park for Wycombe's improved second half performance to win back even one home point; the shock defeat at mid-table Kingstonian, where the bones of Wycombe's title bid last season still lay; and, above all else, the rough-house loosely termed as F.A. Cup football at Dolphin Stadium in which Slough's muscle and Wanderers' mistaken defensive play saw the Athenians through one stage further than form and class—should

have dictated . . . these were the lessons Wycombe must learn from.

As champions of the Premier Floodlight League, Wycombe's midweek form suggests that once again at least this title might again be theirs at season's end. Despite the 1-0 defeat at Wealdstone, the Blues are strongly placed to carry off the Section championship, and from there, possibly even the overall crown.

But, like the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup, it is a trophy — yet not one of THE trophies.

And how hard they have worked and slaved for glory since August. In face of a constant stream of injuries, international and other representatives calls, annoying postponements — not always through poor weather conditions, and the odds stacked against a side 'marked' by their rivals as the ones to beat, Wycombe have done their widescale local following proud.

Memories such as the five goal cup blitz which crushed Kettering Town before half time, the 4-0 demoralisation of Sutton, and the 6-1 dissection of Wealdstone at Lower Mead, not of course forgetting the shattering 9-0 floodlight win over the pride

of Oxford City . . . these were the lessons their opponents will not forget.

Certainly Wealdstone remembered well. For on their exchange visit to Wycombe a little later in the season they pulled out one of the most audacious offside traps ever used and came within an ace of taking two highly undeserved points.

Nobody has given anything away to Wycombe so far, and I doubt if anyone will in the coming months. It is for this reason that I again force Wycombe as the bridesmaids of the Isthmian League, for there is still not the character about them to suggest they can copy the example set by Enfield last year in winning their many games in hand and taking the title at the 12th hour.

And it is this flaw in their character — the lack of big-match temperament—that places doubts in my mind about their bid for Wembley.

No one would be more delighted if I were wrong than myself. Let's hope Wycombe show me twice over that my pessimism is unfounded.

But, if I'm not wrong then remember Leeds, and the frustrations they went through before finally emerging at the very top.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|
| Sutton Utd | 27 | 22 | 1 | 4 | 54 | 26 | 45 |
| Wycombe W | 22 | 16 | 3 | 3 | 53 | 18 | 35 |
| Reading | 23 | 14 | 6 | 5 | 66 | 22 | 34 |
| Enfield | 25 | 14 | 5 | 6 | 34 | 15 | 33 |
| Barking | 28 | 15 | 3 | 10 | 68 | 38 | 33 |
| Oxford C | 26 | 13 | 7 | 6 | 46 | 27 | 33 |
| St Albans C | 20 | 12 | 5 | 3 | 42 | 19 | 29 |
| Widzewastow A | 28 | 10 | 7 | 11 | 48 | 45 | 27 |
| Leistonstone | 22 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 36 | 25 | 28 |
| Widzewastow | 23 | 10 | 6 | 7 | 37 | 30 | 28 |
| Woking | 23 | 10 | 5 | 8 | 35 | 32 | 25 |
| H. H. Tn | 21 | 7 | 6 | 10 | 28 | 32 | 20 |
| Kingstonian | 24 | 7 | 6 | 11 | 33 | 47 | 20 |
| T & M Utd | 22 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 30 | 30 | 19 |
| Wealdstone | 24 | 7 | 5 | 12 | 28 | 30 | 19 |
| Maidstone U | 23 | 5 | 3 | 15 | 22 | 46 | 13 |
| Dulwich H | 23 | 3 | 6 | 14 | 18 | 40 | 12 |
| Clapton | 24 | 3 | 5 | 16 | 19 | 59 | 11 |
| Bromley | 22 | 3 | 3 | 15 | 16 | 58 | 11 |
| Corinthian C | 22 | 1 | 3 | 18 | 13 | 75 | 5 |